



State of Connecticut

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

Testimony

In Support of SB 102

AN ACT ALLOWING "WELCOME HOME" MESSAGES FOR RETURNING CONNECTICUT MILITARY UNITS TO BE DISPLAYED ON OVERHEAD ELECTRONIC SIGN BOARDS ON STATE HIGHWAYS.

Transportation Committee

February 13, 2013

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner and members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 102, An Act Allowing "Welcome Home" Messages For Returning Connecticut Military Units To Be Displayed On Overhead Electronic Sign Boards On State Highways.

This is not the first time this proposal has been before this committee; in 2011 a similar proposal was voted out of the Transportation Committee and the Senate unanimously. I am asking that we finish what we started two years ago, and pass this legislation.

Connecticut would not be the first state to do this, the state of Massachusetts has done this in the past. The welcome home message would not be displayed all the time and would not interfere with the signs displaying transportation or traffic information. As noted above, and reported by the New London Day, Massachusetts has put these welcome home messages up in the past, they have also used these signs to thank Senator Kennedy for his service after his death. In fact, Connecticut has used these signs in the past to congratulate one of the UCONN Huskies sports teams.

More and more of our troops deployed around the globe will be returning home. We owe so much of what we have to these troops. This legislation is a small first step towards showing those troops how grateful we are to them. I ask the members of this committee to support this proposal. Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason C. Welch".

Jason Welch

State Senator 31st District

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank N. Nicastro Sr.". There is a small mark above the signature.

Frank N. Nicastro

State Representative 79th District